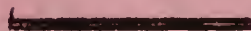




Gelligaer Urban District Council.



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

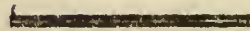
and

Senior Public Health Inspector

For the year

1965

Gelligaer Urban District Council.



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Public Health Inspector

For the year

1965

Telephone :-

Hengoed 2241 (3 lines)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
COUNCIL OFFICES
HENGOED.

10th. June, 1966

To the Chairman and Members of the

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mrs. Jenkins and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1965.

The Report includes information advised by Circular 1/66 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

The estimated population in 1965 was 35,010 - much the same as estimated in 1964.

As judged by the Table of Vital Statistics, the health of the populace has continued to be satisfactory. I draw attention to variations from the past few years.

Infant Deaths were substantially less than in 1964, while Live Births were slightly more. There were more Live Births in 1965 than in any of the past ten years.

Infectious Diseases, apart from Measles, were insignificant, but there were 18 new cases of Tuberculosis discovered.

Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Diseases, and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System totalled 190. Coronary Disease accounted for 74 deaths, 19 more than in 1964 ; 2 more than in 1963.

The number of new houses built by the Council during the year was 138. In addition, St. Gwladys' Court was completed and occupied. Private Enterprise built 41 new houses.

As mentioned in my Report for 1964, a substantial number of houses is being built by the Council every year. In 1961, there were 172 ; in 1962 there were 270; in 1963 there were 88 ; in 1964 there were 127 ; and in 1965 there were 138, plus the Community Dwellings at St. Gwladys' Court which accommodate 40 persons.

Many of the houses in the Gelligaer area are sixty years old. A large number of these lack the accepted amenities of hot and cold running water, bath, and indoor toilet (see Senior Public Health Inspector Thomas' Report).



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Basic repairs and maintenance of houses require a skilled labour force that is not readily available. Many houses will reach the end of a useful life because of failure to repair speedily.

Initial steps have been undertaken by the Council to obtain Compulsory Improvements of dwellings to provide Standard Amenities (Housing Act, 1964). No houses were improved in 1965.

The Community Dwellings at Bargoed were erected during the year, and on November 1st. the transference of folk commenced. These dwellings comprise 24 single units and 8 double units of accommodation. In my Report for 1964, I said that Community Residence aims to give warmth and comfort, facilities for the frail in body, and speedy assistance in emergency. These aims have been achieved. The residents of St. Gwladys' Court are delighted with their new homes, and grateful for the friendly atmosphere engendered by the Warden, and the kindly help given by the Council and the Housing Manager when they moved in. May I repeat what I said in 1964 - I look forward to the time when every ward will have at least one Community Dwelling, where the aged may dwell without loneliness, and in comfort.

The Bedlinog Trunk Sewer was not completed in 1965, but was completed in early 1966.

The Luncheon Club for folks of pensionable age, organised by the Women's Voluntary Service, continued to give lunch to some 50 folk twice a week. This magnificent work has continued for five years.

The Council has discussed for some time means of providing dinner for the aged throughout the area, and thanks to the generous help of the County Council, the Council is now able to proceed. It is hoped that the plan will be in action in 1966. Briefly, the scheme entails the building of a central kitchen, the establishment of 13 Luncheon Clubs for the ambulant aged, and home distribution of meals to the housebound. Meals will be provided twice a week, and it is hoped that the meals delivered to Luncheon Clubs will be served by voluntary workers.

Initial inspection under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 was completed in 1965. Mr. Derek Rhapps resigned his appointment as Shops' Inspector in 1965, and the Council appointed Mr. Tyrone Haines as Inspector under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, as Shops' Inspector, and responsible for other inspections including abandoned Motor Vehicles. The report of inspections made is found on page 22 .

Despite the excellent refuse collection service operated by the Council, it is sad to see refuse and abandoned household articles on river banks and open spaces, and despoiling the beauty of Gelligaer mountain. It is hard to understand the mentality of folk who will turn beauty into ugliness by depositing discarded bedding and furniture on the mountainside ; while every facility is given them to take unwanted household goods to the Council's Refuse tips.

Once more, I am grateful to the Members of the Council for their encouragement, and to the Officers for ready co-operation, and to my colleagues in the Health Department for loyal and harmonious support.

Yours faithfully,

W. BOWEN OWEN

Medical Officer of Health

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman	-	Douglas Williams, J.P.
Vice - Chairman	-	Algina Williams, C.C.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

W. H. Bennett	Mrs. Olive Jenkins
Walter Bowen	J. H. Jones, O.St.J.
E. E. Burgess	Richard John Jones
A. E. Carey	William Jones, J.P.
W. H. Coleman	Alderman W.H. Lee, J.P.
D. B. Cooke	Hopkin Lewis
John Davies	D.J.E. Morgan
H. V. Edwards	William Poyntz
Brinley Harris	G. T. Richards, J.P.
H. V. James	H. L. Roberts, J.P.
Waldo James	K. G. Turner
F. J. Jenkins	Cledwen Williams

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman	-	R. J. Jones
Vice - Chairman	-	H. V. Edwards

W. H. D. Bennett
W. H. Coleman
D. B. Cooke
Walter Bowen
H. V. James
W. R. James
Mrs. Olive Jenkins
J. H. Jones, O.St.J
Alderman W. H. Lee, J.P.
William Poyntz
G. T. Richards, J.P.
Douglas Williams J.P.
Algina Williams C.C.

CHIEF OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk of the Council	-	D. W. C. Morgan, LL.B.
Treasurer and Accountant	-	W. Hicks, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A.
Engineer and Surveyor	-	W. T. Luke, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.
Housing Manager	-	G. L. Williams, A.R.S.H., F.V.I., M.F.B.
Ornibus Manager	-	W. H. Collins

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	-	W. Bowen Owen, J.P., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	-	T. P. Thomas, A.R.S.H., Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.H.
District Public Health Inspector	-	E. G. Rawlings, A.R.S.H., Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.H.
Clerical Staff	-	L. Chilton
Inspector - Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	-	T. Haines
Rodent Officer	-	L. J. Trollope

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Population	-	35,070
Total Acreage	-	16, 772
Rateable Value	-	£654,777
Product ld. rate	-	£2,468

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Population - 35,070

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>						<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	639	333	306
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	51	34	17
Total	...	...	...	...	...	690	367	323
<u>STILL-BIRTHS</u>								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	7	7	-
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	6	5	1
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	13	12	1

LIVE BIRTHS

1956	-	644
1957	-	667
1958	-	647
1959	-	648
1960	-	605
1961	-	634
1962	-	688
1963	-	675
1964	-	676
1965	-	690

As a matter of interest, I give the following figures :-

1901	-	717
1911	-	1720
1921	-	1363
1931	-	847
1941	-	733
1951	-	631
1961	-	634

INFANTILE MORTALITY

AGE AT DEATH	DEATHS OCCURRING IN HOSPITAL		DEATHS OCCURRING AT HOME	
	No.	CAUSE	No.	CAUSE
0 - 1 days	1	Respiratory distress		
	1	Asphyxia	-	
	3	Premature	-	
1 - 2 days	1	Neonatal Asphyxia	-	
2 - 3 days	-		-	
3 - 4 days	1	Sclerema	-	
	1	Intra-cranial haemorrhage	-	
4 - 5 days	-		-	
5 - 6 days	-		-	
6 - 7 days	-		-	
1 - 2 weeks	-		-	
2 - 3 weeks	-		-	
3 - 4 weeks	-		-	
1 - 2 months	-		-	
2 - 3 months	-		-	
3 - 4 months	-		1	Otitis Media
4 - 5 months	1	Cardiac failure	1	Virus pneumonia
5 - 6 months	1	Broncho-pneumonia	-	
6 - 7 months	1	Accidental death	-	
7 - 8 months	-		-	
8 - 9 months	-		-	
9 - 10 months	1	Broncho-pneumonia	-	
10 - 11 months	-		-	
11 - 12 months	-		-	
TOTAL	12		2	

INFANTILE MORTALITY

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year	...	...	5	9	14
Legitimate	...	...	4	8	12
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	2

As shown in the Table of Vital Statistics, the Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births in the Administrative County was 20.79 (26.64 in 1964)
in the Gelligaer Area it was 20.29 (34.02 in 1964)

Of the 14 Deaths, 8 occurred in the first week of life.

There were 14 Still-births during the year.

I append a Table showing the Infantile Mortality Rate in Gelligaer during the past ten years :

1956	-	48 . 14
1957	-	32 . 98
1958	-	27 . 82
1959	-	27 . 78
1960	-	42 . 98
1961	-	31 . 55
1962	-	21 . 80
1963	-	38 . 52
1964	-	34 . 02
1965	-	20 . 29

Thus, the Rate for 1965 is the lowest for many years.

DEATHS

During the year, deaths numbered 416 - males 238 ; females 178.

1956	-	422
1957	-	405
1958	-	384
1959	-	390
1960	-	411
1961	-	396
1962	-	423
1963	-	425
1964	-	398
1965	-	416

MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no deaths in which pregnancy was a factor.

In considering the Registrar General's Returns, there are points of interest. Following is a Table showing the number of deaths in each of three age groups in the past ten years. In considering the age at death, it is interesting to note how many people live beyond the allotted span of three score years and ten.

Age at death 1965	Male	Female
55 - 65	59	29
65 - 75	79	45
75 and over	54	71

No. occurring	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
before age of 1	31	22	18	18	26	20	15	26	23	14
No. occurring between 1 and 65	139	136	121	104	130	123	135	133	135	153
No. occurring upwards of 65	252	247	245	268	255	253	273	266	240	249

DEATHS FROM CANCER

The total number of deaths from all forms of Cancer was 71.

1956	-	68
1957	-	43
1958	-	64
1959	-	66
1960	-	62
1961	-	62
1962	-	68
1963	-	65
1964	-	71
1965	-	71

CANCER OF THE LUNG

1956	-	11	- 7 males , 4 females.
1957	-	7	- 7 males
1958	-	8	- 8 males
1959	-	9	- 8 males, 1 female
1960	-	11	- 7 males, 4 females
1961	-	15	- 13 males, 2 females
1962	-	16	- 14 males, 2 females
1963	-	11	- 11 males
1964	-	12	- 12 males
1965	-	18	- 17 males, 1 female

During the year, Cancer caused the death of 71 persons. This figure is the same as that recorded in 1964, which was greater than in any of the previous ten years.

Cancer of the lung shows the highest figure for the past ten years.

During the year, there were 7 deaths from cancer of the breast. With all the facilities available for early diagnosis and prompt treatment, it is sad to think that advice was not sought more quickly.

DEATHS FROM VIOLENT CAUSES

Accidents in the home caused three deaths - 2 males, and 1 female.

Accidents at work caused one death.

Motor vehicle accidents caused five deaths.

Deaths due to drugs, either accidental or pre-determined, numbered 7.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Diseases ...	76	70	146
Deaths from Cancer	42	29	71
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	20	24	44
Deaths from Measles	-	-	-
Deaths from Bronchitis	39	9	48
Deaths from Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea, Gastritis and Enteritis	-	1	1
Deaths from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	-	4
Deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2
Deaths from Motor Vehicles Accidents	3	2	5
Deaths from Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Deaths from Influenza	2	-	2
Deaths from Pneumonia	6	7	13
Deaths from other Disease of Respiratory System	12	-	12
Deaths from other Violent Causes	13	5	18
Deaths from Diabetes	1	1	2

THUS :-

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Disease	145	116	146
Deaths from Cancer	65	71	71
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	62	45	44
Deaths from Bronchitis	29	48	48
Deaths from Violent Causes	15	19	18

Disease of the arteries of the heart continue to be prominent :-

In 1965, 51 males and 13 females died from this cause, as compared with
 in 1964 41 males and 14 females
 in 1963 38 males and 34 females
 in 1962 56 males and 24 females
 in 1961 39 males and 12 females

While coronary disease continues to strike down males, it has not featured so prominently in females during the year.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASESNOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASESAGES DISTRIBUTION

DISEASE	Total cases	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65-75	75 and over
Sonne Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	-	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	8	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-

Measles - 161

Whooping Cough - 3

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
5 - 9 years	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 years	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 years	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	4	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
65 - 69 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
70 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	14	4	-	1	4	-	1	1

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS
INCIDENCE AND DEATHS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>INCIDENCE</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>
1956	-	33	8
1957	-	32	5
1958	-	30	1
1959	-	33	4
1960	-	30	6
1961	-	19	6
1962	-	15	9
1963	-	18	5
1964	-	13	1
1965	-	18	4

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Dr. D. J. Anderson, Medical Officer of Health of the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division, supplied the following information :-

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

Age	0 - 3 mnths.	3 - 6 mnths.	6-9 mnths.	9 -12 mnths.	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	Total
Vaccination	-	3	1	-	89	30	2	125
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	7

IMMUNISATION

Born	1965	1964	1963	1962	1958 - 61	Others	Total
Diphtheria	1	1	-	-	4	1	7
Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria/ Tetanus	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Triple Antigen	213	280	19	11	4	-	527
Boosters	1	96	135	36	67	3	338

B. C. G. VACCINATION

Number of schoolchildren in the Gelligaer Area who received B.C.G. - 336

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The following information relates to the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division :

<u>Oral Vaccine</u>	-	<u>Year of Birth</u>	-	<u>Number Vaccinated</u>
		1965		210
		1964		530
		1963		159
		1962		127
		1961		54
		Others		66
Given re-inforcing doses after 2 Salk Injections	-			nil
after 3 Salk Injections	-			650
after 4 Salk Injections	-			195

HOUSING

Mr. G. Lloyd Williams, the Council's Housing Manager, has supplied the following information :-

	Permanent dwellings	Temporary dwellings
<u>By the Local Authority :-</u>		
No. of houses completed and occupied in 1965	138	
St. Gwladys Court	32	
No. sanctioned but not commenced	236	
No. completed and occupied since 1918	2130	100 - now demolished
<u>By Private Enterprise, Building Societies etc:-</u>		
No. of houses completed and occupied in 1965	41	
No. partly completed during 1965	19	
No. for which plans were passed, but were not commenced in 1965	-	

Number of families rehoused in 1965 - 198

Number of families in which Tuberculosis was a factor	-	5
Number rehoused as a result of Closing Orders	-	4
Number of families rehoused from Slum Clearance Areas	-	51
Number of Old Age Pensioners rehoused	-	13
Number of aged persons afforded special accommodation at St. Gwladys Court	-	40

The number of applicants for Council Houses was much the same as in 1964.
The special accommodation at St. Gwladys' Court was completed in 1965.

The Council's loan scheme enabled 163 families to purchase their own homes during 1965.

The first stage of the Gilfach Fargoed Housing Scheme was completed in 1965.

-----oOo-----

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Measurement of atmospheric pollution was continued at Bargoed during the year :-

<u>Month</u>				<u>Rainfall</u>		<u>Total solids</u>
January	...	...	...	6 . 73 ins.	...	34 . 67 tons
February	...	...	...	0 . 20 ins.	...	13 . 30 tons
March	...	...	...	3 . 30 ins.	...	26 . 14 tons
April	...	...	...	2 . 43 ins.	...	23 . 64 tons
May	...	...	...	4 . 07 ins.	...	25 . 94 tons
June	...	...	...	5 . 47 ins.	...	15 . 70 tons
July	...	...	...	4 . 88 ins.	...	15 . 01 tons
August	...	...	...	2 . 42 ins.	...	7 . 47 tons
September	...	...	...	4 . 95 ins.	...	14 . 31 tons
October	...	...	...	2 . 19 ins.	...	13 . 07 tons
November	...	...	...	3 . 66 ins.	...	18 . 54 tons
December	...	...	...	9 . 79 ins.	...	31 . 25 tons

Total amount of dust collected per square mile was 239.04 tons :-

in 1965	was	239 . 04 tons
in 1964	was	199 . 94 tons
in 1963	was	210 . 33 tons
in 1962	was	197 . 93 tons
in 1961	was	229 . 17 tons
in 1960	was	294 . 53 tons
in 1959	was	361 . 56 tons

The National Coal Board has installed new boilers at the Bargoed Power Station with the object of lessening the amount of dust and grit emission. Unfortunately, this aim has not been achieved. Indeed, more complaints have been received in late 1965 and early 1966 than for some years past.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to Mr. W. H. James, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., the Engineer and Manager of the Rhymney Valley Water Board for the following report on the public water supply :-

(1) Water Supplies - Bacteriological Examination

A total of 237 samples were taken of the various supplies in the area as follows :-

Rhymney Bridge Reservoir :

Raw Water	47	(3 showed no count)
Treated	47	(all but 1 satisfactory)

Deri Reservoir

Raw water	48	(8 showed no count)
Treated	47	(all satisfactory)

Taf Fechan Reservoir

Treated	48	(all but 4 satisfactory)
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(2) Works

Work on construction of the Heolddu Service Reservoir continued throughout the year, and plans were prepared for the modernisation of the filters and filterhouse at Rhymney Bridge, and, also, for a new trunk main from Point 1 to Rhymney Bridge.

(3) Housing Sites, etc.

Work of mainlaying in the area was carried out at a number of housing sites for both the Council and private developers. Alterations to the Board's trunk main at Rhymney Bridge have been necessary due to the work on the Heads of the Valley road.

(4) Supply Position

In general, supplies were well maintained throughout the year and it did not become necessary to restrict supplies. On Saturday, 9th. January, 1965 it became necessary for the Supply Board to shut off the low level supplies for the purpose of carrying out a new connection. This shut-off lasted about 30 hours but once again the Board's new Service Reservoirs proved extremely useful in supplementing supplies during the period of shut-off.

In addition, the Public Health Department sampled the Public Water Supply on 10 occasions, all results being satisfactory.

One small stream supplying two cottages at Sebastopol, Troedrhifwuch was found to be heavily polluted. An alternative supply was found.

SWIMMING POOL

The Council provides a large, open air Swimming Pool in the Park at Bargoed. Every year it is in operation from May to September. Being an open air pool, the attendance is much affected by the weather.

The pool is filled from the public water supply, and also 'topped-up' from the mains.

For the safety of bathers, it is necessary that adequate chlorination and a high degree of clarity of the water are always present. Both features were satisfactorily provided during the year.

An Automatic Recorder of Chlorination of the pool was installed in 1961. In 1963, an Automatic Chlorinator was installed in the pool. This type of Chlorination is highly desirable, ensuring the purity of the water at all times by feeding in Chlorine as required to maintain the Chlorine content of the water at optimum level. The purity and clarity of the water were very satisfactory in 1965.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

I am indebted to Dr. W. E. Thomas, the County Medical Officer, for the following information. The following samples were taken in the Gelligaer Area by the County Sampling Officer during 1965 :-

Milk	-	25
Ground almonds	-	1
Aspirins	-	1
Baby Food	-	1
Cooking fat	-	1
Colouring	-	2
Condensed Milk	-	1
Cream	-	1
Coffee	-	4
Custard Powder	-	1
Doughnuts	-	1
Tinned fruit	-	2
Frozen fish	-	8
Glucose	-	1
Ice Cream	-	1
Jan	-	3
Jelly	-	3
Mixes	-	3
Liquid Paraffin	-	1
Frozen meat	-	1
Margarine	-	1
Medicines	-	3
Marzipan	-	1
Prunes	-	1
Fish Paste	-	1
Raisins	-	1
Raising Powder	-	2
Essence of Rennet	-	1
Salad Cream	-	1
Sauce	-	2
Sweets	-	2
Soup	-	1
Soft drinks	-	2
Suet	-	3
Strawberries	-	1
Tomato Piquant	-	2
Minced Turkey	-	1
Vinegar	-	1
Tinned Vegetables	-	1
Vitamins	-	1

MORTUARY

During 1964, the Council discontinued the provision of a mortuary. An arrangement was made with the local Hospital Management Committee that the Mortuary at Ystrad Mynach Hospital could be used instead. This is a good arrangement, as facilities at Ystrad Mynach Hospital are more suitable.

.....

For some years, the Council has maintained a Lethal Chamber - a means of removing unwanted dogs, cats, and other pets at no charge.

.....

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Action was taken under Section 47 of this Act on one occasion during the year.

Prolonged surveillance and encouragement had failed to effect any improvement..

Another householder in need of care and attention was persuaded to enter a Welfare Home.

.....

LUNCHEON CLUB

The Bargoed Luncheon Club, inaugurated by the Women's Voluntary Service, continued to give lunch on two days a week to some fifty old folk.

.....

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Of the 286 premises registered at 1st. January, 1965, 150 had been inspected. The remainder received a general inspection by April, 1965. As a result of these inspections, over 200 informal notices were sent to employers. Where these notices, and subsequent visits failed to remedy contraventions of the Act, warning notices were served, and these notices have been effective in securing compliance with the Act in the following cases :-

- Section 7 - effective provision for ventilation ;
- Section 12 - suitable accommodation for outdoor clothing ;
- Section 16 - provision of handrail and/or guarding to stairs ;
- Section 24 - provision of approved first aid boxes.

Contraventions of Section 9 and 10 of the Act which came into operation on 1st. January, 1966 have proved to be the greatest problem. Employers have been reluctant to provide running hot water. The general condition of many sanitary conveniences leave much to be desired, but particular difficulty has been experienced in attempting to secure artificial lighting. Approximately 15% of the premises in this area have no artificial lighting to their sanitary conveniences.

No. of premises registered in 1965	- 29
Total no. registered by the end of 1965	- 282
No, which received a general inspection	- 210
Total number of visits of all kinds made	- 1470
Number of persons employed in registered premises	- 389 males 777 females
	<hr/>
	<u>1166</u>

Number of accidents reported during the year - 4.
These were all of a minor nature.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

By the end of the year, the area comprising Ystrad Mynach, Cefn Hengoed, Tiryberth, Pengam, Gilfach and Bargoed had been investigated. Within this area, 33 vehicles were found to be apparently abandoned, most of which were almost total wrecks. In the few cases where the vehicles still bore Registration plates, attempts were made to contact the owners through the local Taxation Office.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the months of November and December, 88 premises were visited mostly in the Bargoed district. Of these premises, 42 were employing Young Persons under the age of 18. The total number of Young Persons was 62. The majority of the premises were not displaying the Statutory Notices.

FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS
(excluding Bakehouses, Garages, Builders' Merchants)

Austin Factory, Tiryberth	-	Motor Car Components
Cheverton and Laidler, Tiryberth	-	Paper and carton manufacturers
Coal Tips and Washeries	-	Ryan and Company. National Coal Board
Hengoed Concrete Products	-	Concrete Products
Hestons, Tiryberth	-	Rubber
Hawker Bros., Pengan	-	Light engineering
National Coal Board Collieries at Penallta, Groesfaen, Ogilvie, Taff Merthyr	-	Coal Mining
Scrap Yard, Ystrad Mynach	-	Collection of old metal and textiles
Rhymney Engineering Works	-	Light and heavy engineering
Welsh Dry Cleaners, Bargoed	-	Dry cleaning
Wendy Boston, Tiryberth	-	Toy Manufacturers
Peter Williams, Bargoed	-	Printing
Woodwork Factory, Tiryberth	-	Woodworking
Western Woodcrafts, Hengoed	-	Woodworking

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S

REPORT FOR THE YEAR1965

I present my report upon the day-to-day routine work of the Department during the year 1965.

A great deal of the time of your Officers was devoted to matters concerned with housing problems e.g. the inspection of houses in connection with repair works required, and the prevention and detection of nuisances; and inspection of sub-standard housing. In connection with this latter category, the struggle to try to keep in habitable condition dwellings which, though over ripe for Closure or Demolition, must yet be patched up and made to last for some time continued. These dwelling houses, of which several hundreds exist in the Urban Area, and which are to be found mainly in the northern part of the area where the earliest industrial development took place, are devoid of all modern amenities such as provision for bathing, hot water services, proper water closet accommodation which is even adjacent to, let alone in, the dwelling, and with adequate natural lighting and ventilation. An ever increasing number of such houses are now being purchased by either the tenants, or by newly married couples setting up home for the first time. Where this has occurred, the new owner/occupiers have made creditable efforts to effect improvements by the installation of some, or all, of the services mentioned above. This gives the houses somewhat longer leases of life. Where such improved houses are rented, however, rents are uneconomically low, and the financial return to the owner is so small, that great difficulty and much time is taken up in trying to keep them in a reasonable condition of repair, quite apart from any efforts at trying to secure works of improvement. Whilst on this subject, it is appropriate to draw attention to the shortage of skilled building labour that exists in the district. The larger building firms are almost wholly engaged on Improvement Grant schemes, such as the construction of bathroom extensions, or the actual building of new houses. There is a shortage of firms of the 'jobbing builder' type who were formerly willing and ready, almost on demand, to replace slates blown off a roof, or renew decayed doors and windows. House repair work, and the general abatement of nuisances caused by such matters is therefore sometimes unavoidably and inevitably subject to frustrating delays. As has been customary for some years, routine house-to-house inspection of dwellings within the district was again carried out by the Department in 1965. 220 houses were visited and inspected, mainly in order to note and record prevailing conditions of repair, the presence or absence of modern amenities, and conditions respecting possible overcrowding. Only non-Council houses were visited, and I give details of conditions revealed by these inspections :-

Number of Houses Inspected as routine	-	220
Number of houses with fixed bath	-	135 (61%)
Number houses with flush.cistern to water closet	-	32 (15%)
Number of houses with hot water supply	-	98 (44%)
Number of houses owner/occupied	-	151 (68%)
Total number of persons in residence	-	737
Average number of persons per house	-	3 . 35

Apart from a small number of cases of houses with large families, no great degree of overcrowding was discovered. It should be stated also that houses occupied by owner/occupiers, and those that were rented, were all visited without discrimination in order to secure an accurate cross-section of prevailing living conditions.

During the year, preliminary steps were taken in connection with carrying out improvement of houses as provided by the 1964 Housing Act for a portion of one street at Bargoed. At this street, it is the intention of the Council to enforce the provisions of bathrooms, hot water supply, water closet apartment, and ventilated food store by utilising the machinery of the Act. This is intended as a pilot scheme, and doubtless, when completed, will be followed by other similar schemes in the Urban Area.

Reference has been made earlier to the large number of sub-standard houses that exist, mainly in the northern part of the Urban Area, most of which are, or are approaching, one hundred years old. Tribute must, at the same time, be paid to the majority of occupants of these houses, particularly the women folk, who have striven to maintain, decorate, and furnish dwellings which were designed and constructed for another age. One cannot but admire people who are sufficiently house-proud that they have refurnished their homes with modern style furnishings, and have even temporarily removed floorboards or undersized windows, or dismantled wardrobes or other large articles so as to take them into the houses, reassembling them later when this has been accomplished - and all this because it is impossible to get them up the very narrow winding stairways that give access to the bedrooms.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE

As a result of complaints received	...	914
In connection with Housing Repairs	...	639

VISITS MADE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

To dirty and verminous premises	...	67
As a result of notifiable disease	...	13
To Schools	...	59
To Piggeries and Smallholdings	...	28
To premises without a mains water supply	...	26
To moveable dwellings	...	29
To Cinemas and places of entertainment	...	33
To Licenced Premises and Clubs	...	87
To premises conducting Offensive Trades	...	14
To refuse tips and ash tips	...	65
To rear lanes	...	141

INSPECTIONS MADE UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955
and FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955 - 60

To dairy premises	...	59
To grocery establishments	...	204
To cafes and restaurants	...	132
To factories and bakehouses	...	89
To butchers' shops	...	147
To School and Industrial canteens	...	91
To ice-creameries	...	48
To Licensed Houses	...	85
To fish friers and fish restaurants	...	31

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE
UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS

The total number of visits made was 953.

In company with Mr. G. Lloyd Williams, the Council's Housing Manager, inspections of Council houses were made when deemed necessary and desirable. Visits actually made were :-

- (a) - As a result of direct instruction by the Council, or Housing Committee, or resulting from complaints by neighbours or other interested persons, to dwellings where the required standard of cleanliness was not being maintained, or was in danger of deteriorating.
- (b) - To dirty and verminous dwellings, or houses which were experiencing trouble by infestation with insect pests such as ants or cockroaches.
- (c) - To houses which were abused or misused by the tenants.
- (d) - For the inspection of premises occupied by prospective Council tenants with, where necessary, disinfection or disinfestation of premises and furniture.

HOUSING ACTS 1957 - 1961 and
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1953

Mr. D. W. C. Morgan Clerk to the Council, has furnished the following information for which I am grateful :-

Number of houses on which Demolition Orders were made	...	4
Number of houses on which Closing Orders were made	...	2
involving the whole of the premises	...	2
involving part of the premises	...	-
Number of Closing Orders revoked following undertakings by the owners being accepted by the Council	...	-
Number of houses demolished as a result of Compulsory Purchase or Clearance Orders (including a portion of Pontlottyn Slum Clearance Scheme)	...	48
Number of families rehoused as a result	...	51

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of private dwellings improved with Discretionary Grants	...	30
Number of private dwellings improved with Standard Grants	...	21

THUS :-

<u>YEAR</u>		<u>DISCRETIONARY GRANTS</u>		<u>STANDARD GRANTS</u>
1960	...	48	...	9
1961	...	24	...	24
1962	...	28	...	19
1963	...	33	...	24
1964	...	40	...	26
1965	...	30	...	21
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		203		123
		<hr/>		<hr/>

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954
RENT ACT 1957

Number of applications received for Certificates of Disrepair	-	2
Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	-	1
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	-	1
Number of undertakings by owners accepted by the Council	-	1
Number of applications for Revocation of Certificate accepted	-	11
Number of Certificates revoked by the Council	-	-
Applications for Certificate of Disrepair refused by the Council	-	-
Number of visits made to premises by Public Health Inspectors in connection with Certificates of Disrepair	-	14

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 and
FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955 - 60

Principal food retail premises in the Gelligaer Urban Area are :-

Butchers' Shops	-	39
Ice Cream manufacturers	-	11
Ice Cream vendors	-	152
Bakehouses	-	7
Grocery stores	-	113
Cafes and Restaurants	-	25
Fried Fish and Chip shops	-	18
Public houses and Clubs	-	62

Three supermarkets, aiming to market everything in the food line to satisfy the family operate in the main shopping centre of the Area, whilst there are also a large number of family parlour-type shops, or lock-up front room shops also retailing various kinds of foodstuffs and miscellaneous commodities.

25 premises are registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 as premises which are used for the manufacture of Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Foods that are intended for sale. These foods consist mainly of meat by-products such as meat pies, pasties, sausages, faggots, and cooked ham and brawn. Much of these products are, however, becoming monopolised by large specialist manufacturers who distribute to retail shops at regular intervals from controlled depots.

All food premises receive regular visits in order to see that the requirements of the Food and Drugs Acts and the Food Hygiene Regulations are maintained, and it is pleasing to report that generally the Regulations appear to be observed both to the letter and the spirit intended. Food manufacturers and food handlers in general co-operate readily in efforts to please their customers in the most satisfactory and hygienic way possible. These days, almost every type of foodstuff is pre-packed before sale ; shop premises interiors are largely constructed of glass or laminated plastic materials, thus reducing the need for scrubbing and polishing to the very minimum. Despite all this, however, there is still need for sound common sense and good basic training to attain and keep up the hygienic standards demanded. Cases of gross carelessness on the part of food handlers still occur, and among those dealt with by the Department during the year were the following :-

- (a) - A stained finger bandage in a tin of canned meat from a foreign country.
- (b) - A piece of glass found in a packet of potato crisps.
- (c) - Cans of imported meat affected by mould.
- (d) - Meat pies which had become affected by mould due to staleness.

One food handler was proceeded against in the local Court on charges of smoking whilst in a food room or shop, and handling open foods after smoking without first washing his hands. He was convicted on both counts and fined two pounds and costs on each charge.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS 1947 - 52

There are, within the Urban Area, 152 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream. These are cafes, restaurants, grocers, and even licensed premises such as Clubs and Public Houses, in addition to the small corner or front-room type shops. Many of these latter, however, have now been squeezed out of business, or operate sporadically, due to the intense competition now prevailing in the sale of ice-cream, especially in summer months when consumption of this commodity is at its maximum.

There are 11 premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Samples of ice-cream were taken regularly during the year for laboratory examination, the results for 1965 being as follows :-

Total number of samples taken for examination	- 47
Total number showing a satisfactory result	- 37
Number showing an unsatisfactory result	- 10

Samples which show an unsatisfactory result are repeated until a satisfactory result is obtained. Only occasionally is 'loose' ice-cream found for sale, and then always from gallon sized cans which can be kept under refrigeration. All the popular varieties are pre-packed at the time of manufacture, and are required to be kept at a low temperature until sold to the customer. Many mobile vans, some coming from far afield, circulate the area during periods of favourable weather, some of them being fitted with expensive machinery which manufactures ice cream as and when trading conditions demand.

WATER SUPPLY

A piped water supply is provided to the great majority of dwelling houses in the Urban Area. In fact, only a very small percentage of isolated cottages and hill-top farms remain unconnected to the main supply, and have to rely on rain water and mountain streams and springs. In not one instance is any dwelling dependant on a deep or shallow well for its domestic water supply.

Complaints of inadequate pressure to kitchen taps are occasionally received from the village of Brithdir. These are always referred to the Rhymney Valley Water Board who co-operate most helpfully in efforts to improve the existing supply. Many of the domestic supply pipes to the houses at Brithdir are very old, and very badly corroded internally, and the Water Board advise that in cases of this nature the only permanent solution is the renewal of the supply pipes to each house.

While a large number of houses in the area are not supplied with running hot water, this number is being reduced annually by the installation of gas and electric heaters over the kitchen sink. These fittings ensure that hot water is available for ordinary household chores.

During the year, ten samples of water were submitted for Bacteriological and Chemical analysis. All of these samples proved to be satisfactory. A sample taken from a stream supplying Sebastopol Cottages at Troedrhiwfwch was unsatisfactory.

FOOD SUPPLIES

All articles of food which are found, on inspection, to be unfit for human consumption are disposed of by incineration or, where that is not practicable, by collection by the Council's Refuse lorries with subsequent deep burial in one of the Council's Refuse tips ; or, after complete and prolonged boiling so as to ensure satisfactory sterilisation, utilised as animal feeding stuffs.

Items so disposed of during 1964 included the following :-

<u>Fresh meat</u>	- 193 lbs. Beef ; 16 lbs. Pork .
<u>Canned Fruits</u>	- 257 lbs. Tomatoes ; 26 lbs. Grapes ; 91 lbs. Apricots ; 310 lbs. Pears ; 214 lbs. Peaches ; 51 lbs. Pineapple ; 51 lbs. Strawberries ; 31 lbs. Prunes ; 11 lbs. Plums ; 12 lbs. Grapefruit ; 23 lbs. Dried Fruits ;
<u>Canned Meats</u>	- 209 lbs. Corned Beef ; 10 lbs. Brawn ; 275 lbs. Cooked Ham ; 49 lbs. Luncheon Meat ; 78 lbs. Jellied Veal ; 37 lbs. Pork ; 42 lbs. Lambs Tongue.
<u>Poultry</u>	- 20 lbs. Turkey ; 51 lbs. Fowls.
<u>Fresh & Canned Fish</u>	- 17 lbs. Pilchards ; 41 lbs. Salmon ; 7 lbs. Sardines ; 19 lbs. Frozen Cod ; 3 lbs. Canned Crab.
<u>Miscellaneous Food</u>	- 36 Eggs ; 71 lbs. Confectionery ; 6 lbs. Peas ; 4 lbs. Cream ; 28lbs. Beans ; 6 lbs. Flour ; 39 lbs. Butter ; 10 lbs. Sausages ; 250 lbs, Ice Cream .

Total weight of all foods found to be unfit for human consumption was :-

1 ton , 3 cwts., 1 qtr., 10 lbs.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND REGULATIONS 1949 - 1959

Milk is produced by 53 farms in the area. The major portion of this is taken in churns to central points from whence it is collected by the Pasteurising Plants which operate outside the area. Since 1961, the Licensing Authority for the retailing of all grades of milk has been vested in the Food and Drugs Authority, which for this area is the Glamorgan County Council. The responsibility for milk sampling also falls on the Glamorgan County Council.

Complaints, apart from the occasional misuse of milk bottles, were few. There were no complaints concerning the quality of milk itself. With regard to the misuse of milk bottles, it is interesting to note that with the greater variety of materials used for food packing, more use is now being made of non-returnable containers for milk, particularly for milk supplies to schoolchildren. One of these containers, known as "Tetrapak" milk carton is plastic lined, with an 'eye' in the top corner of the carton formed by cutting a small circle of the carton so as to reveal the polythene inner lining. By using a reasonably stiff drinking straw, this can be pierced, giving access to the milk.

SCHOOL CANTEENS

Frequent visits were made during the year to all school canteens in the area. For the 32 schools, there are 23 school kitchens, some kitchens preparing and cooking meals which are conveyed by motor vehicle to smaller schools where kitchens are not provided. In these cases, food is placed whilst still hot into insulated stainless steel containers, and delivered in a very short time after leaving the kitchen to the required point. Almost a hundred women are engaged in the preparation, cooking, and serving of well over 4,000 meals daily during the school year at the schools in the Urban Area. The meals served are wholesome and appetising. Every effort is made by all the personnel concerned to maintain the high standard that has been attained during the years since the Schools Meals Service was first instituted. In this connection, it is pleasing to report that the alterations and extensions to the canteen and kitchen at the Lewis' Boys' School, Pengam, where conditions previously had been very cramped, were completed and came into operation in the autumn of 1965, an arrangement welcomed by both the staff employed, and by the diners.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS 1933 - 1958

Nine persons residing within the area are licensed as slaughtermen.

There is no slaughterhouse situated within the Urban District ; almost all fresh meat sold in the local shops is brought in from other districts where slaughterhouses are sited, such as at Buttry Hatch Maesycwmmmer, Brynmawr, Cardiff and Newport. Meat imported from abroad - viz. Canterbury lamb, Argentinian or Australian beef, is distributed from cold stores and warehouses in the Docks of Cardiff and Newport, distribution being done by large motor vehicles which deliver directly to the retail shops.

During 1965, 12 cottagers' pigs, kept by pig keepers at small-holdings or allotments, were slaughtered for home consumption ; and were inspected as to fitness by your Inspectors, mainly at or around Christmastime. By arrangement with the Council of Bedwas and Machen, your Inspectors also carry out relief work during holidays or periods of illness at the Maesycwmmmer Slaughterhouse.

BYE - LAWS - HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

All Hairdressers' and Barbers' establishment in the Area have been supplied with copies of the Bye-laws appertaining to hygiene and cleanliness standards that must be provided and maintained at their premises, which came into operation at the commencement of 1964. There are 41 such establishments known to the Department, some of these being conducted in the front rooms of private houses, and probably many more unofficial ones carried out by friends or relatives. Infringements of the conditions imposed by the Bye-Laws constitute an offence and are punishable by a fine on conviction.

LICENSED HOUSES AND CLUBS

There are 62 Licensed Premises in the Urban Area, made up as follows :-

31 Public Houses
31 Licensed Clubs.

Two Public Houses ceased to function during the year, one at Bargoed and the other at Pontlottyn.

Regular visits were made to all Licensed Premises, both during hours of business, and when closed to the public.

In past years, very many improvements and additions have been made to premises of this nature, more particularly to Licensed Clubs. These improvements apply both to the hygienic and sanitary features, and amenities and comforts for the customer or club member, such as fitted carpets and floor covering, laminated plastic topped counters and tables are provided, and much more comfortable seating, artificial lighting and ventilation are found.

All inspections, especially those in the case of Club Premises, are welcomed by the Management or Committee concerned, and the Department is not infrequently consulted when new developments or additional facilities are contemplated. Any infringements of the Acts or Regulations discovered during inspection are immediately notified to the Brewery Company, or, in the case of a Club, to the Club Secretary concerned. During the year, letters forwarded to the people concerned included the following :-

- (a) - To prepare or renew the existing surfaces of counters and shelves.
 - (b) - Repair or renew defective and burst water pipes, and flushing cisterns.
 - (c) - Requiring the redecoration or re-pointing of walls and ceilings of rooms.
-

OFFENSIVE TRADES.
SCRAP METAL DEALERS' ACT, 1965

Only two premises where offensive trades are conducted exist in the Area - one at Bargoed and one at Ystrad Mynach. At both these premises little, if any, materials are collected and stored that can possibly cause nuisance ; for only discarded textile materials are collected, and ferrous and non-ferrous metals. Bones from animals and waste meat or other animal products are collected three times weekly by a specialist firm operating from Newport. Thus the Area is fortunate that possible nuisances that could arise from the local disposal of these products are minimised.

With the introduction of the Scrap Metal Dealers' Act, 1965, and its implementation by Local Authorities, and Police, from April 1965 all persons engaged in this trade are now required to be Registered by the Council of the Area in which they operate or reside. Three such applications have been approved by the Council up to the end of the year. Much national and local prominence and publicity has been given to growing problems of the discarded and unwanted motor vehicles dumped at the roadside verges, and on patches of waste ground in the District. Positive action is now being taken in an effort to reduce this potentially dangerous, and certainly undesirable, practice by irresponsible persons.

CARAVAN SITES AND
CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Four caravan sites have been approved for licensing by the Council, the largest site being for forty caravans, and the smallest for a single caravan. All these caravans have been licensed for, and are used as , permanent dwellings by their occupiers, many of whom have expressed the view that they are quite content, and would prefer this mode of life rather than live in a conventional dwelling house. All sites are visited and inspected periodically and the Model Bye-Laws issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government controlling dwellings of this nature are enforced. Like other areas, this district is occasionally visited by the unauthorised caravan occupied by the type of person who rebels against authority, who is neither amenable to reason nor the rules of hygiene and good living. These itinerant dwellings are most difficult to control, and when encountered the occupiers are encouraged to move on.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

The control of pests and vermin generally, and in particular their destruction again occupied an important part of the Department's time. Below I give a table indicating the amount of work done, together with details of visits made to premises and other places infested by these pests during 1965

	<u>Number Inspected</u>	<u>Number Treated</u>	<u>Visits Made</u>
Dwelling houses	559	492	861
Business premises	43	17	138
Refuse tips	6	32	75
Rivers and Brooks	29	21	38
Farms and Agricultural Holdings	31	-	59

The six monthly treatment of sewers for the eradication of rats took place again in May and November of the year. The rat population in sewers, where they cannot be readily seen by the general public, is kept down to minimal proportions by this twice yearly treatment.

14 dwelling houses had to be treated and disinfested because of vermin, usually bed bugs.

Mention must again be made of the completely anti-social and troublesome habit of some persons who habitually dump all kinds of refuse and unwanted household articles in rear lanes, and on open spaces throughout the area. This illicit dumping creates unnecessary scars in an area, and upon a countryside which surely bears sufficient scars already from the heavy industries sited close at hand. It is, too, a practice that encourages rat and mouse colonies which ultimately find their way to the nearest dwelling houses. The policy of the Council in taking over and resurfacing rear lanes throughout the district will have an important bearing in this direction.

Yours faithfully,

T. P. THOMAS

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

